

ERRATA SHEETS

Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters Public Access Project

Bandelier National Monument

National Park Service (NPS) policy (Director's Order- 12: *Conservation Planning, Impact Analysis, and Decision- Making*) requires the identification and analysis of substantive public comments prior to reaching a decision on the Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters Public Access Project Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA). As defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and guidance on implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), substantive comments are those which challenge the accuracy of analysis, dispute information accuracy, suggest different viable alternatives, or provide new information that makes a change in the proposal. As described in the FONSI, no substantive comments were received on this EA. However, the Pueblo de San Ildefonso did express several concerns and comments regarding the proposed project that, while not substantive in nature, are addressed below.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS:

Comment: "This area...is...critical to the traditions and religious beliefs of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso.... We are sure that these areas will be compromised if these lands are open for public use."

Response: The NPS is committed to the protection of sensitive cultural resources in the Bandelier National Monument and understands the special relationship between the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and the lands within monument. The preferred alternative does not affect opportunities for Pueblo members to collect traditional use materials. The preferred alternative does not change existing park regulations that prohibit the general public from collecting of plants, animals, artifacts, rocks, pine cones, sticks, soils, and other materials. The preferred alternative does not limit access of Pueblo members to these areas as described in the EA, Chapter 2, Section 2.1, Actions Common to All Alternatives. The Preferred Alternative limits the general public to daytime, year- round use only.

Comment: "[T]he drought that has gripped this part of the region over the last few years has undoubtedly put all forests at risk of potential catastrophic wildfires. Public access heightens this risk and should be seriously considered."

Response: The Bandelier Fire Management Plan, approved in early 2005, designates the Upper Frijoles area (including Cerro Grande) as a suppression area. All naturally ignited or human caused fires would be immediately

suppressed in this area. The Alamo Headwaters area does allow wildland fire use for a resource benefit (WFURB) under specific prescription parameters, to accomplish fire and resource management goals and objectives. If the wildland fire is found to not meet the parameters for a WFURB, it would be suppressed.

We believe opening these lands would not lead to a higher fire risk. Campfires are prohibited in all areas of the monument at all times of the year. Bandelier National Monument has also thinned areas within 300 feet of NM 4 from the entrance station at Bandelier to the boundary of the Valles Caldera National Preserve along NM 4, thereby further reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and assisting in defending developed areas. Under certain extreme fire conditions, any and all monument lands may be temporarily closed at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Comment: “In the past, the Pueblo has expressed concern over the locations of some important resources, especially those within this particular area of the Monument. We understand that a detailed survey of this area was undertaken by your field personnel. We would kindly request any maps and additional information regarding this parcel....”

Response: Bandelier National Monument completed a cultural resources survey of the Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters area in 2004. Maps of survey results and other pertinent information can be made available to the Pueblo during future tribal consultation meetings with the NPS.